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**Identical letters dated 16 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On Saturday, 15 April 2017, terrorists committed a despicable crime that was intended to kill the greatest number of women and children when they detonated a vehicle packed with explosives in the area where buses and ambulances had gathered to transport 5,000 residents of the towns of Kafraya and Fu'ah. Those towns are located in the Rashidin area, which lies to the west of Aleppo city and is controlled by armed terrorist groups that are supported primarily by Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

That cowardly terrorist bombing killed more than 120 children and women, and injured more than 200 other children and women. The explosion also injured dozens of other innocent civilians and severely damaged buses and ambulances. The terrorists brought the explosive-laden vehicle to the gathering point after they had loaded it with foodstuff for children, in order to kill the greatest number of children and their parents.

The armed terrorist groups continued their descent into criminality by visiting death and destruction on the people of Fu'ah and Kafraya, in particular children and women, even after it had become necessary to evacuate the residents temporarily from their towns. Every single day for more than four years, the people of those towns have endured the harsh siege and starvation imposed by the armed terrorist groups and their non-stop shelling, which would have resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe were it not for the strenuous efforts of the Syrian Government to save the lives of the inhabitants, break the siege imposed on those towns and alleviate the suffering of the townspeople by evacuating them temporarily to shelters, including, inter alia, the Jabrin shelter near Aleppo city.

The above-mentioned terrorist attack coincided with the frantic campaign mounted by the armed terrorist groups and their masters after their impotence had been exposed by the success of the national reconciliations that are being concluded on a regular basis, thus leading them to try to delay implementation of the Four Towns Agreement. That Agreement had been concluded in order to lift the deadly siege imposed on Syrian civilians in Fu'ah and Kafraya, and remove all armed men from the towns of Zabadani and Madaya, and thereby relieve the suffering that



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civilians have endured at the hands of the terrorists, which the terrorists have sought to prolong in order to achieve their inhuman aims.

It is notable that those, in particular in such countries as Britain and France, who claim to defend human rights and protect the lives of Syrian civilians have once again revealed their duplicity and the hypocrisy of their policies, which promote death and destruction, by remaining as silent as the grave with regard to that terrorist bombing and by failing to condemn it. That bombing can only be characterized as a war crime and a crime against humanity that serves to complement the unjustified, heinous aggression that America committed against the Sha'irat airbase of Syria.

That cowardly terrorist attack was part of the response of the armed terrorist groups and the regimes that control them to the victories of the Syrian Arab Army and its allies, and the army's success in confronting the terrorist groups Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front and associated terrorist entities in many parts of Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the pressing need for the international community to unify its counter-terrorism efforts and, in that regard, to coordinate and cooperate fully with the Government. The international community must also desist from raising any doubt as to or ignoring the paramount priority of countering terrorism, in order to restore security and stability in Syria, the entire region and the world.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council to condemn that criminal act of terrorist aggression, hold accountable the perpetrators and the Governments of States that arm, fund and shelter terrorists, in particular Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, France, Britain and the United States, and compel those States to implement fully Security Council resolutions concerning counter terrorism, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1989 (2011), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I should be grateful if these identical letters could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative